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## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**The Arizona Crested Flycatcher as a Bird of California.**—On May 17, 1921, Mrs. May Canfield collected two Arizona Crested Flycatchers (*Myiarchus magister magister*) in the bottomlands of the Colorado River, near Bard, Imperial County, California. These specimens which are now numbered J 1071 and J 1072 in my collection, are of particular interest, since they constitute the first record of the appearance and capture of this species in California.

In connection with this record, it is of interest to note that the birds were collected in an indigenous willow-cottonwood association bordering cultivated fields. Too much stress must not be placed, however, upon the difference between this environment and the giant cactus association in which Mr. H. S. Swarth (Pacific Coast Avifauna, no. 10, 1914, pp. 40-41) found these birds nesting in southeastern Arizona, and to which he considered the species restricted, at least in that section. The date of the present capture is a dangerous one to conjure with when the breeding or migrational status of a species is in question. There are isolated groves of this same sahuaro cactus (*Cereus giganteus*) only a few miles distant from our California record station. In the migration of many species, the males precede the females. The collection of two males, instead of a mated pair, may therefore well suggest the probability that these birds were simply on the move to nesting sites in the sahuaros, a bit farther to the north.

From Mr. Swarth's experience, and from our own, it is perhaps permissible to predict that the range of this species will ultimately prove to be delimited in California by the northern and western outposts of this cactus within our borders. The foothold of the sahuaro in California is admittedly precarious. If the summer range of *magister* should be found to be coincident with the distribution of this cactus, and if the latter should be extirpated by the agency of man, or otherwise, it would be interesting to note, as the years go by, whether the flycatcher in question has sufficient associational plasticity to adapt itself to the changed ecological condition, or whether it would retreat, in that event, to the sahuaros of Arizona.—DONALD R. DICKEY, Pasadena, California, April 25, 1922.

**Occurrence of the Surf Scoter on Fresh Water.**—A neighbor shot five Surf Scoters (*Oidemia perspicillata*) April 5, 1922, on a small pond at the head of his irrigating ditch at the lower end of La Puerta Valley, San Diego County, California; altitude 2100 feet. One was a male, the other four females. The male was given me and I preserved the skin (now no. 43202, Mus. Vert. Zool.). I think this is the first fresh-water record for this species for California.—FRANK STEPHENS, San Diego, California, April 10, 1922.

**The Salt Marsh Yellowthroat in Southern California.**—Some months ago, when Mr. Donald R. Dickey and the writer had occasion to work over a series of Yellowthroats (*Geothlypis trichas*) taken in the salt marsh area about Anaheim Bay, Orange County, California, it was found that two forms were present. Most of the birds were readily referable to the fresh water resident, *scirpicola*, but nine dark, small specimens seemed to belong to the San Francisco Bay race, *sinuosa*. Three of the latter were sent to Mr. H. S. Swarth, of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, who pronounced them representative of that form. He also suggested that breeding yellowthroats from the southern California salt marshes be collected in order to determine their exact status.

Accordingly, on April 21, 1922, I took, at Hog Island, Anaheim Bay, Orange County, three males in breeding condition, and a female carrying nesting material. These are found to be not quite typical of, but may be safely called, *scirpicola*. The extreme dates for the occurrence of *sinuosa* in this region are October 3 to March 15, so that it evidently occurs as a spring and fall migrant as well as a winter visitant. Under the circumstances, the appearance of *sinuosa* in the salt marshes of southern California indicates that this form is, to a degree at least, migratory, and not the hard and fast "resident" of the San Francisco Bay region, which it was previously supposed to be.—A. J. VAN ROSSEM, Los Angeles, California, May 23, 1922.

**A Second Capture of the Broad-tailed Hummingbird in California.**—One of the interesting results of field work carried on by Mr. Laurence M. Huey in the White Mountains during the past summer and fall was the taking of an immature male Broad-tailed Hummingbird (*Selasphorus platycercus*) in fresh post-juvenal plumage. This specimen was collected at an altitude of 9000 feet, on Cottonwood Creek, White Mountains, Mono County, California, August 23, 1921, and is now number J 1590 of my collection.

As early as May, 1912, Mr. H. S. Swarth, while engaged in field work in the Inyo Mountains for the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, detected the presence of this species within the confines of our State, and later recorded his experience (Condor, xviii, 1916, p. 130). His sight record and the accompanying prognostication were later confirmed by the taking of a female and two young in the White Mountains by another field party of the same Museum. In commenting on the taking of these first actual specimens in California, Dr. Joseph Grinnell (Condor, xx, 1918, p. 87) states that "the indications are that this Rocky Mountain species of hummingbird occurs regularly as a summer visitant to the high mountains along the eastern border of California, east of Owens Valley". The second capture, presented herewith, is merely additional proof that the earlier suppositions were amply justified, and that *Selasphorus platycercus* does occur regularly, if rarely, in the desert ranges of east-central California.—DONALD R. DICKEY, Pasadena, California, April 25, 1922.

**An Unknown Near San Diego.**—For the previous two winters a Green-tailed Towhee (*Oreospiza chlorura*) had frequented our back yard and fed from the bird-table there. This past winter I had been on the look-out for it to appear again. The first week in February I had several times caught a glimpse of a bird with some green on it flying away. I expected to recognize the towhee when I could get a good view of it.

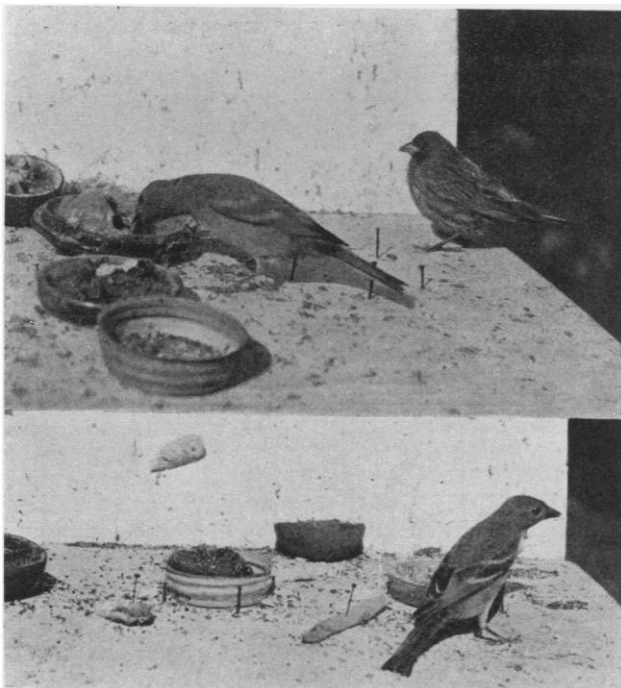


Fig. 34. TWO VIEWS OF AN UNKNOWN BIRD WHICH VISITED A FEEDING-TABLE NEAR SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA, IN FEBRUARY, MARCH AND APRIL, 1922. THE LINNET ALSO SHOWN FURNISHES A STANDARD OF COMPARISON.

This opportunity occurred on February 12, but instead of being a towhee it was a very different bird. Its general appearance was very like that of the female Arizona Hooded Oriole, a trifle smaller and more stockily built.

The shapes of the head and bill were quite different from those of the oriole. The bill was an orange yellow, rather brighter than that of the white-crowned sparrow. In size the bill was between that of the grosbeak and that of the oriole. The lower photograph (fig. 34) shows the shape admirably. The eye was prominent and bead-like. The upper parts of the bird were greenish, brightest on the head and rump, back washed with grayish, wings and tail brownish. The under parts were more or less yellow, brightest on throat and rump, whitish in middle. It had two white wing-bars, and later the tertials were slightly tipped with white.

It came regularly to the feeding table from one to a dozen times a day, from February 12 to April 10. Have not seen it since April 10. During those two months there were not more than three days in which I did not see it. It may have come without having been seen.

The table was ten or twelve feet from my window. Each morning I put a small quantity of bird-seed, some cracker crumbs, either a spoonful of canned fruit or a cut orange, and occasionally some suet on the table. I never saw this bird touch anything but the fruit; and it seemed to prefer the canned figs to any other fruit. It ate of the fruit voraciously, coming every half-hour or so as long the daily ration lasted. I did not hear it make a sound until a short time before it left and that was a very odd sound of several syllables that I cannot describe.

The bird was rather shy, especially when the camera was set up near the table, or when I used an opera glass at the window. At other times it did not much mind being looked at. There was no red in the plumage and no yellow on the wings. Its bill was much lighter in color than are the bills of the tanagers in the museum. If it had been two months later I should have called it a Western Tanager without question.

My record of the visits of the Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*) is as follows: 1908—May 11 to May 15; 1912—April 23 to May 8; 1918—May 4; 1921—May 6 to May 29; 1922—May 12.

Is not a Western Tanager what was my unknown bird?—MRS. T. F. JOHNSON, *National City, California, May 29, 1922.*

**Swamp Sparrow Recorded from California.**—On their return from a collecting trip in the White Mountains of California this past fall, Mrs. May Canfield and Laurence M. Huey stopped at various stations to collect series of the local mammals and birds of east-central California. While camped near Keeler, Inyo County, California, on November 1, 1921, a strange sparrow came to a little spring near the camp. The bird was collected and proved to be a Swamp Sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*). This specimen is number J 1797 of my collection, and constitutes another addition to the California list.

In commenting on the specimen, Dr. Joseph Grinnell calls my attention to its agreement in wing length with middle-western birds, from Illinois, rather than with Atlantic slope representatives of the species, as a rough indication of the source of this straggler.

The bird has been recognized as a regular summer resident west as far as west-central Alberta (A. O. U. Check-List, 3d. ed., 1910, p. 276), but a distinct south-eastern trend of fall migration has been indicated, due no doubt to the barrier of the Rocky Mountains. That the bird occasionally straggles over these mountains far to the south and west is shown both by Howell's Arizona specimen (Condor, xviii, 1916, p. 213) and by the present California record.—DONALD R. DICKEY, *Pasadena, California, May 4, 1922.*

**Nesting of the California Evening Grosbeak.**—On June 14, 1914, W. W. Moore and myself found a California Evening Grosbeak (*Hesperiphona vespertina californica*). Just out of the town limits of Eureka, in a patch of green timber bordered on the lower end by a salt marsh, we were attracted by the loud whistling and scolding notes of the bird. When we were able to locate the noise, we found four birds feeding in the top branches of a white fir. The light being right we could easily distinguish the two males

from the two females. The noisy bird proved to be a male and seemed to have a quarrel with one of the females. He would stop all his racket and go to feeding; suddenly he would start scolding, drive the female from her feeding place, stop scolding and go to feeding there himself. We saw him do this several times before we left to see what was in a nest of a Black-headed Grosbeak nearby.

From there we went in search of a Western Winter Wren's nest, without success. All of this time we could hear that noisy male Evening Grosbeak at intervals. So back we went, to where the grosbeaks were feeding. We were back several minutes before the quiet male and female flew to another part of the timber. This seemed to set the noisy male agoing; he drove the female across several trees before she disappeared in a thick cluster of small branches near the top of a white fir. The male landed about twenty feet lower down, in the same tree, and all his racket stopped. In a short while he flew in the direction taken by the other pair, and was not followed by the female.

Up the tree I went and was within twenty feet from where the female disappeared when Moore called, "there she goes", and down she came to meet me. Up to the cluster of branches I went; there was the nest, placed in a crotch formed by two branches crossing, and was within reaching distance. The nest was made of dry twigs, that looked as if they were broken by the birds from a near-by dead fir. It was thickly lined with fine dry roots.

The nest contained four eggs, incubation from just right to nearly hatching. The eggs look like Red-winged Blackbirds', and the extremes measured in inches .50 to .64 by .87 to .98. All the time I was at the nest, the female made all the racket the male had previously made, besides snapping her beak. Her scolding must have been heard for quite a distance, but the male did not return.—JOHN M. DAVIS, *Eureka, California, March 30, 1922.*

**The Gray Flycatcher in the White Mountains of California.**—The appearance of the Gray Flycatcher (*Empidonax griseus*) in southern California in migration and in winter, and its disappearance during the breeding season, has for many years been a problem for which there seemed no logical solution. Until recently, there has been no basis of data which would serve to trace its movements in California, after it passes through the San Diegan district as a common spring migrant. However, the recently published records by Oberholser, of the summer occurrence of *griseus* in Nevada (Auk, xxxvii, 1920, p. 133), and in eastern Oregon (Condor, xxii, 1920, p. 37), coupled with the specimens recorded below, seem to shed a little light on the subject. There are, in the Dickey collection, four specimens of this flycatcher, taken by Laurence M. Huey and Mrs. May Canfield, in the White Mountains of east-central California. Three of these are nearly full grown juveniles, two of which were taken at McCloud Camp, Mono County, at an altitude of 10,000 feet, August 27, and the third on Wyman Creek, Inyo County, at 8000 feet, September 4. The fourth is also a juvenile, just coming into first fall plumage, and was collected on Wyman Creek, at 8000 feet, on September 3, 1921. The inference is that these birds were hatched somewhere in the vicinity, for scarcely-grown juveniles would hardly have undertaken any extensive wandering.

It would therefore seem that the Gray Flycatcher, after leaving the San Diegan district, passes north-eastward to the desert ranges to breed. The fact that this region has been but sparingly worked by collectors, accounts, in our belief, for the present scarcity of summer records. These remarks have, of course, nothing to do with the individuals of this species which breed in Lower California, but they do apparently solve the seeming vagaries of movement in the California population of *griseus*.—D. R. DICKEY and A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *Pasadena, California, May 30, 1922.*

**A Third Record of the Gray-headed Junco in California.**—The first records of an unexpected bird in any arbitrary geographic area are necessarily so casual in their very nature as to suggest the advisability of publishing further confirmatory notes. Dr. Joseph Grinnell (Pasadena Acad. Sci., Pub. 2, 1898, p. 38), and Mr. Austin Paul Smith (Condor, ix, 1907, p. 199) have already called attention to the occasional presence of *Junco caniceps* in California. Recent experience leads the writer to believe that this species is a more regular winter visitant to California than the previous records suggest.

During the past winter and spring, Mr. A. J. van Rossem had occasion to make several week-end trips to Oak Glen, situated at the head of the Yucaipa Valley, at an altitude of 5200 feet, in the San Bernardino Mountains, California. Careful scrutiny of the flocks of juncos which frequented the vicinity disclosed two individuals of the Rocky Mountain species, *Junco caniceps*. These specimens (nos. K 75 and K 76, coll. D. R. D.) were collected by van Rossem on March 4, 1922, and thus confirm the field determination.

The heavy rains which the West enjoyed during the winter months of 1921-1922, with the consequent heavy snowfall in the higher altitudes, naturally restricted the winter range of these ground-feeding birds which are, in all probability, normally present in the mountains of southern California during the winter months. It is the writer's belief, based on this data, that *caniceps* would be found a regular—though possibly rare—winter visitant to California, if equally favorable opportunities for observation were afforded each winter. The lack of mountain collecting in the winter months, and the rarity of similar snow conditions, have in all probability accounted for the previous dearth of California records of this species.—DONALD R. DICKEY, Pasadena, California, May 30, 1922.

#### RECORD OF BIRDS BANDED

Bands:	5701-5708	9726-9730	12336-12344	24801-24805	32885-32889	56433
	6612-6650		12346-12368	24807-24835	32891	
J. E. Law, at Los Angeles, Calif., November 28, 1921, to May 26, 1922.						
Carpodacus m. frontalis, (22) 6615-17, Pipilo c. senicula, (1) 32885.						
-29, -41, -42, 6647-6650, 12352, Zonotrichia coronata, (1) 6626.						
12359-12361, 24810, -13, -15, 24817- Zonotrichia leucophrys (subsp.), (48)						
24822, 6612, -14, -16, -18, -20, -21, -23, -24, -25,						
Dendroica a. auduboni, (1) 6622, -27, -28, 6630-6637, 6643, -46, 12341, -42,						
Melospiza m. cooperi, (4) 6619, 24830, -50, -51, -53, -54, -55, -56, -58, 12362-						
48129, -30, 12368, 24804, -09, -11, -12, -23, -24.						
Mimus p. leucopterus, (1) 32886.						
At Altadena, Calif., December 7, 1921, to May 30, 1922.						
Chamaea f. henshawi, (5) 6639, 24805, Pipilo m. megalonyx, (2) 12343, -49.						
-07, -08, -14, Thryomanes b. charienturus, (5) 24831-						
Cinclus m. unicolor, (1) 56433, 24835.						
Hylocichla guttata (subsp.), (2), 6638, Toxostoma r. redivivum, (5) 9726-9730.						
12357, Zonotrichia coronata, (13) 6613, -40, -44,						
Junco o. thurberi, (1) 12344, -45, 24801, -02, -03, -16, 24825-24829.						
Mimus p. leucopterus, (1) 12348.						
Pipilo c. senicula, (5) 12346, -47, 32888,						
-89, -91.						
Ernest P. Walker, at Beardslee Island, Glacier Bay, Alaska, August 3, 1921.						
Larus glaucescens, (3) 5701-5703.						
At South Marble Island, Glacier Bay, Alaska, August 5, 1921.						
Larus glaucescens, (5) 5704-5708.						

## EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

The annual Cooper Club roster appearing in the present issue of THE CONDOR, shows a total membership of 800. This is a six percent increase over last year, and, of course, is larger than ever before. For the compilation of this directory, which experience has shown to be a very useful feature of our annual volume, the Club is indebted to Mrs. J. Eugene Law.

The best index to current ornithological

literature in the world today, we believe, is that comprised in the "Recent Literature" department of *The Auk*. The editor of this journal, Dr. Witmer Stone, with the advantage of the excellent literary facilities at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, has proven himself able to cover the literature of every country with remarkable thoroughness. Rarely does a title come to light which he has missed. Especially useful is it to have a clue to articles